

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1 as follows:

-- In an embodiment of the document 1, the optical marking 3 and the check number 9 is produced with diffraction structures and disposed on the same information carrier 17. The advantage of this embodiment is that the operation of reading off the identification 7 and the check number 9 and the operation of writing to the information carrier 17 are effected with a single optical reader 26 (Figures 5 and 6) in accordance with EO 0 718 795 A1. The expensive security feature 8 (Figure 1) can be omitted. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10 as follows:

-- In a third embodiment, the validation device ~~22~~ 21 is additionally provided with the keyboard 28 and the display 31, in order by way of the keyboard 28, to input the code 11, with the display 31 serving to check the code 11. The code is also transferred with the recording means 27 on to the document 1. For particularly important documents 1, the validation device 21 is designed to demand the input of a personal identification number (PIN) from the user. In one case, that PIN as a permission PIN identifies the operator who is operating the validation ~~unit~~ device 21 and, in a second case, as an owner PIN it identifies the document owner, in which respect, upon activation of the document 1, the owner types in his PIN by way of the keyboard 28 and, in the computing unit 24, the owner PIN serves together with the code 11 or on its own as a parameter for production of the check number 9. --